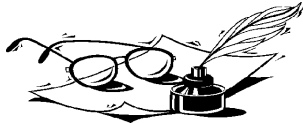




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From Pastor Paul's Desk.....

A-B NEWSLETTER

• ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH •

Rev. Paul R. McReynolds, Pastor

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Blannie Bowen, Editor; Volume 29, Number 11, November 2022

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, the Healer of the Soul, and our Everlasting Redeemer. I am so excited about what the Lord has in store for us at Albright-Bethune. We have an amazing opportunity to be a bridge in the community by mending their souls with the word. Engaging their hearts in stewardship and prayer. All of this is done by a Beloved Community engaging in planting the seeds of Jesus Christ, our Hope. Building Bridges of connections throughout the community. (Matthew 25:34-36, Luke 4:18-19).

Family, I pray all is well with you!! We are approaching the holiday season of family fun. Keep our church family in your prayers. We are seeking participants for our new online cooking show *Albright-Bethune Cooks*. The first episode has been released on Facebook. We are excited for you to join us for wonderful cooking experiences! We want you to share your favorite recipes. If you want to participate, please let me know. I'll send you instructions and answer your questions.

Let us be in continued prayer for the Peagler family as well as for Ms. Cheraine Stanford and her family. Let us be in prayer for Mother Ireen Jones and her brother. Let's keep Momma Jo Ferrell in our prayers as well as Mr. Andrew Jackson and Ms. Helen Kite.

We are also looking for volunteers for our praise parking lot ministry during Penn State's home football games. If you want to help, please contact me.

On November 13 at 2:30 p.m., we will have our Annual Charge Conference at Mount Nittany UMC. Feel free to join us for this important conference.

On November 14 at 6:30 p.m., our congregation will have a Clarity Day with Kim Shockley. Our church leadership and laity are asked to be a part of our conversation about what and why we do what we do as a church (Zoom will be also available). I hope to see you there!

November 20 is our Sunday Funday. Pastor Jessica Davis of St. Paul's UMC will be our guest pastor. On that afternoon at 2:30 p.m., we will go to State College 9 Theatres to see the movie *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*. Tickets will be linked in Constant Contact.

Dear Lord, we are so thankful for all that you are doing and have done thus far. Lord, please open our minds and our ears to hear Your voice. Lord, please open our hearts to be in fellowship with You. Lord please allow us to feel Your loving warm embrace in this season of coldness. Open the doors that need to be opened and close the doors that need to be closed. Lord, please guide our footsteps on the road that leads to everlasting life. Amen. **Pastor Paul McReynolds**

- **EVC MEETING** - Our church is completing the second year of a UMC program called Equipping Vital Congregations (EVC). We are receiving monetary and other support from EVC to strengthen and expand our programming. On Monday, November 14, at 6:30 pm, our congregation will have an important congregational meeting with one of our EVC advisors, Kim Shockley. We will meet with Kim to discuss where we have come from and where we will go. Please plan to attend this meeting in the sanctuary or with the Zoom link that will be shared.
- **CHURCH CONFERENCE** - The Annual Albright-Bethune Church Conference will be held on November 13 at 2:30 pm at Mount Nittany UMC. Brenda Leigey, our district superintendent, will conduct the conference jointly with the leaders of our congregation and the leaders of Mount Nittany UMC and St Pauls UMC. See Pastor McReynolds or Jackie Peagler if you have questions about the conference or the business affairs of the church. All members and worshippers are encouraged to participate in this important meeting.
- **PECAN PIES** - Albright-Bethune is again selling genuine Southern pecan pies that you can enjoy with your Thanksgiving dinner or eat for a special dessert. The price is \$30, but also consider making a contribution to our church. Contact Blannie Bowen **by November 9** if you want to order a pie or have questions. The pies will be baked by B. Evans Kitchen (aka Blannie) and will be available for pick-up or delivery starting Saturday, November 12, until Wednesday, November 16. You can reach Blannie at (814) 777-6550 or at blanniebowen@gmail.com.
- **CHURCH MOVIE VIEWING** - Please mark your calendars for a Family Fun Sunday at the College 9 Theaters located near Lowes. On November 20 at 2:30 p.m., we will go to see the movie *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*. Information about tickets will be coming soon.
- **NEW POSITION** - Congratulations to **McClane Dyreson** who has accepted a new position with KPMG, a major international accounting firm. McClane will be located in KPMG's Philadelphia office. He is one of our long term members who has worshipped faithfully with our congregation. McClane recently graduated from Penn State.
- **GHANA TRIP** - Last month, **Cathy Bowen** and Meta Bowen (her sister-in-law) had a once in a lifetime trip to Ghana as part of a tour group. They explored various sites and locations throughout the vast country that has strong ties to the development of the US. They were in Ghana October 4-14 and traveled extensively to various historic sites, buildings, and locations. Cathy will be glad to share more details and answer your questions about her trip.
- **WORLD HUNGER SUNDAY** - On November 20, congregations in our Susquehanna UMC Conference are asked to support World Hunger Sunday. Congregations are being asked to participate in the Harvest Home for World Hunger Offering. Half of the offering will be designated to assist food distribution programs within our conference. The other half will go to national and international UMCOR food programs. In 2021, the offering from congregations totaled \$30,412 and grants were distributed to 48 hunger programs
- **ALBRIGHT-BETHUNE COOKS** - Our congregation is expanding its Men Who Cook concept and is creating a virtual **Albright-Bethune Cooks**. The concept is patterned after what Dylan Dreyer uses on the *Today Show* to teach her son (Cal) how to cook. Pastor Paul has agreed to do the filming, editing, and posting -- and teach others how to do it. We are planning for our episodes to be 5-10 minutes. Jo Ferrell has already created our first episode about her famous sticky buns and it's posted on Facebook. We plan to limit the episodes to our members, worshippers, and perhaps their relatives or close friends. If you wish to share one of your dishes, please contact Pastor Paul or Blannie Bowen to discuss your idea.

- **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Congratulations to these individuals who celebrate a special day this month: November 2 – **Jennifer Saunders'** Birthday; November 4 – **Andrew Jackson's** Birthday; November 4 – **Keisha Johnson's** Birthday; November 11 – **Victoria Jackson's** Birthday; November 14 - **Jadon Isaiah Wilson's** Birthday; and November 16 - **Michelle Torregano's** Birthday. Give Blannie your special dates (call/text 814-777-6550 or email blanniebowaen@gmail.com) so we can honor you on your special day.
- **FOOTBALL PARKING** - During Penn State's home football games, our church is again making its parking spaces available to individuals attending the games. Volunteers are needed to help with this activity that will generate funds to support our congregation's programs and activities. If you are interested and available to assist, please contact Pastor Paul.
- **RISE BOOK INITIATIVE** - A new program has been created to ensure that early childhood educators in Centre County's elementary schools have access to high quality diverse children's books. Reading IS Enlightening or RISE wishes to recognize all diverse experiences, including (but not limited to) race, culture (ethnicity, language and class), disability, gender, family structure and religion, as well as social justice issues. RISE is a 5-year initiative that will continue through the 2025-26 school year. You can make a contribution online at https://centrefoundation.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=1588 Also, you can send a check payable to Centre Foundation with Reading IS Enlightening (RISE) Fund in the memo line to: Centre Foundation, 1377 Ridge Master Drive, State College, 16803. If you have questions about RISE, you can send an email to RISEBookInitiative@gmail.com .
- **TARGETED FOOD BANK DONATION: PEANUT BUTTER** - To concentrate our donations to the State College Food Bank, we are requesting that throughout the year we focus on donating peanut butter. During the months of July-March, peanut butter will be purchased and donated to the State College Food Bank on behalf of Albright-Bethune. Please help by contributing an additional donation (\$10 or whatever you can give) to the cause each month. Designate your donation for peanut butter/Food Bank on your paper check, electronic donation, or on the cash envelope you place in the collection plate. Peanut butter will be purchased and donated to the Food Bank on behalf of Albright-Bethune. By donating this way, the collective impact of our donations can be recorded in a more concise manner by the Food Bank and reported back to the congregation. This will also be helpful in completing yearly reports required by our Susquehanna UMC Conference and make the donations less work on individual members. During February and March, the peanut butter donations will be collected under our Peanut Butter Express Program and will be handled by our students.
- **PARKING SPACES FOR RENT** - Our church allows individuals who work at Penn State and downtown to rent our parking spaces during the week. We now have a few spaces that are not rented. If you know individuals who might be interested in renting a space, please have them call our church office and leave a message at (814) 237-4404 or send an email to albrightbethuneumc206@gmail.com. The price to rent a space is \$60 per month. Cathy Bowen manages the parking spaces and you can contact her at cbowen2015@gmail.com or at (814) 574-8346 if you have questions or need more information.
- **THANKSGIVING** – When we celebrate Thanksgiving, live the purpose behind this day by helping friends, family members, students, and some worshippers. Several of our worshippers are from other states and countries and cannot return home for Thanksgiving. So, please follow CDC guidelines and recommendations and include them in your big meal. One possibility is to deliver or have your guests pick-up the meal. Also, invite your guests to take some of the leftovers so they do not clog your freezer until Thanksgiving 2023.

- **STRESS REDUCERS** - With the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays approaching, now is a good time to reflect on an issue of *A Christian Perspective* newsletter that offered 7 ways to reduce stress and make your life more enjoyable. **(1)** Allow time everyday for privacy, quiet, and introspection. **(2)** When you face an unpleasant task, do it early in the day. **(3)** Delegate responsibility to capable individuals. **(4)** Take a lunch break to get away from your problems. **(5)** Count to 1,000 (not 10) before doing or saying something to make matters worse. **(6)** Have a forgiving view of events and people because we live in an imperfect world. **(7)** Have an optimistic outlook because most people do the best they can.
- **ADVENT** - How much do you know about Advent which celebrates Christ's birth 2,022 years ago? Advent is derived from the Latin word *Adventus* which means coming. It begins on Sunday, November 28, and ends at sunset on Christmas Eve. Advent always includes four Sundays. The 1st Sunday marks the start of the Christian year and the final victory. The 2nd and 3rd Sundays represent John the Baptist while the 4th represents events preceding Jesus' birth. Traditional colors include purple which means royalty and is linked to penitence and Mary, Jesus' mother. Blue represents hope and white and gold represent joy and festivity. Christmas Eve is not part of Advent, but is the beginning of Christmas.
- **FINANCE CORNER** - Each month the amount our church collects via offerings is posted in this section of the newsletter. Our October offerings and collections totaled \$4,365. See Cathy Bowen if you have questions about our church's finances. Also, as a reminder, if you make purchases using Amazon, please consider using this Albright-Bethune link (<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1711251>). Below is a tally of what our purchases have generated this year: March 3 - \$20.17; May 31 - \$11.17; and September 2 - \$18.45 for a total of \$49.79. Thanks to all who have the link bookmarked and use it routinely!
- **YOUR ITEMS** - Send, email to blanniebowen@gmail.com or give your items to **Blannie** by the **20th** of the month. Send your birthday, awards, church presentations, writings, etc.

Calendar

November 6	Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 8	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
November 13	Annual Charge Conference, Mt Nittany UMC, 2:30 pm. Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday (Give Life)
November 14	Equipping Vital Congregations (EVC) Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
November 20	Church Movie Outing, 2:30 pm (<i>Black Panther: Wakanda Forever</i>) World Hunger Sunday
November 20-26	Penn State Thanksgiving Holiday Break
November 24	Thanksgiving Day
November 27	United Methodist Student Sunday
Nov 27-Dec 24	The Season of Advent
December 9	Penn State Classes End
December 13	Albright-Bethune Administrative Council Meets, 7 p.m.
December 17	Penn State Commencement
December 25	Christmas Day – Celebrate the Birth of Jesus